

RIGHT MAKES MIGHT
"Let us have faith that right makes might; and, in that faith, let us to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."
—Abraham Lincoln.

THE ALMA RECORD

A SACRED TRUST
"The Constitution is a sacred instrument; and a sacred trust is given to us to see to it that its preservation in all its virtue and its vigor is passed on to the generations yet to come."
—William McKinley

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ALMA, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 19, 1920

WHOLE NUMBER 2135

LAKE, ASSISTANT POSTMASTER, DEAD

Popular Young Man Taken by Death After Illness of Two Weeks.

WAS A PROMINENT MASON

Funeral Will Be Held Friday Afternoon with Masonic Services at the Grave.

Although expected for some days, the announcement Wednesday morning that Howard C. Lake, assistant postmaster, had passed away, following influenza and pneumonia, came as a distinct shock to his hundreds of friends, who could not bring themselves to realize that there was no hope, in view of the wonderful fight that he made against the inroads of disease.

Held in high esteem by hundreds of patrons of the post office, honored among his Masonic brethren, and respected by everyone for his sense of duty, which caused him to give up his position during the war, and go into the service as a private, it must be admitted that he has held a place close to the hearts of Alma people, who sorrow in his death with his grief-stricken widow, his parents and brothers.

He became connected with the local post office seven years ago, as a postal clerk, and three years ago when a vacancy took place, merit was the factor which caused him to be named as assistant postmaster, which position he has since held, except for some few months during the latter days of the war, when he was in a training camp in the south, preparing to do his part in Europe, if need be.

During the time that he has been in Alma he has been an active member of the Masonic lodge. Last year he was Master of the lodge, and this year was named as High Priest of Alma Chapter No. 123.

Funeral arrangements call for a private funeral at the late home on Pine street Friday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock, Rev. J. C. Meese of Grand Rapids in charge of the services. Burial will be made in Riverside cemetery, at which place the Masonic services will be held. It is expected that the services at the grave will be in charge of Herbert M. Montague, Past Grand Master, and at present superintendent of the Michigan Masonic Home here.

Howard Carl Lake, the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Lake, was born in Putnam township, Livingston county, January 10, 1889. When he was three months old his parents moved to a farm near Forest Hill, where he received his early education. He then attended St. Louis high school, from which he graduated.

Following his marriage February 5, 1910 to Miss Belle Sullivan, he lived in Lansing for some months where he was employed. He then moved to Alma, having accepted a position with the Alma plant of the Michigan Sugar Company.

Seven years ago he became a member of the post office force, and has continued at the post office continuously, except for the few months that he spent in the army.

He was taken sick on Friday, February 6, and on February 12 was removed from his home to Brainerd hospital. Everything that could be done for him was done, but to no avail, as he passed away yesterday morning.

He is survived by his wife, Belle Lake; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Lake; and two brothers, Floyd and Raymond, all of whom are residents of this city.

GROWERS ORGANIZE
At a meeting of about six hundred farmers here the latter part of last week, an organization was perfected that will be a part of the Michigan Beet Growers Association, which has been formed to work in behalf of the beet growers of the state, in negotiating for the contract prices for the 1920 crop with the factories of the state.

They claim that the present scale of prices is not equitable, as the sugar companies are getting several times the profit that the farmers secure. The farmers contend that there should be a more equitable distribution of the profits between the farmers and the factories. They are not seeking a bigger return that will make an increased price for sugar they state.

What the outcome of the negotiations between growers and factories will be will be eagerly watched by the public, which is beginning to concern itself as to the possibilities of higher prices for sugar in another year.

IS POSTPONED
The Father & Son week and banquet, which was to have been held in this city during the present week has been postponed to the first week of March, and will be carried out at that time with the same program as had been arranged for. The date of the banquet will probably be announced next week. The get-together was postponed because of the unusual amount of sickness at the present time.

Mabel Normand in "Pinto"—Idlehour Wednesday and Thursday—adv.

ANNUAL MEETING

Board of Trade Will Hold Session Tuesday and Elect Officers.

The annual meeting of the Alma Board of Trade will be held on Tuesday evening, February 24, at the Gratiot club, and it is desired by the officers that just as many members of the board as possible be present for the annual election, and the other business that may come up at that time.

There will be a new president of the Board of Trade chosen at next Tuesday evening's meeting to succeed Charles F. Brown, who moved to Mt. Pleasant some months ago, and at the present time there does not seem to be the slightest indication of the man who may be selected to head the board. It is possible that a warm contest may develop Tuesday evening before a successor is chosen by the directors although at the present time, there is nothing to indicate that this might happen.

Directors for the coming year are to be chosen by the members of the Board of Trade, and it is likely that there will be one or two spirited contests, such as usually mark the election of the directors.

In addition to the election of the president of the Board of Trade, the directors will also choose the other officers for next year.

DR. ANDREW B. SPINNEY DIED ON FRIDAY LAST

Was Physician in Charge of the Alma Springs Sanitarium at One Time.

Dr. Andrew B. Spinney of Ionia, for many years one of the widest known practitioners in the state, died at his home on Friday, February 13, at the age of 84 years.

Dr. Spinney, who had had a wide experience in a number of Michigan cities and towns, was a former resident of Alma, being the physician in charge of the sanitarium in this city, when that institution was opened to the public in 1885. The sanitarium has since become the Michigan Masonic Home.

For many years he was a specialist in the treatment of chronic diseases, and had operated sanitariums in various places in the state. He also traveled extensively throughout Michigan, lecturing and meeting his patients in hotels.

He was born at Magog, Canada, about twenty miles north of the Vermont line, October 6, 1835. He was graduated from the Cleveland Homeopathic Medical College, and after practicing at Clymer, N. Y., for a short time, located at Saginaw, Michigan. He was in the general practice in that city until he became one of the founders and stockholders in the Detroit Homeopathic Medical College established in Detroit in 1871. For two years he was the professor of anatomy and physiology in that institution. For a number of years thereafter he was frequently called into consultation by other physicians in the state.

He is survived by three children, a son, John D. Spinney of this city; and two daughters, Harriet A. Sovereign, of Alma, and Tessa A. Spinney of Ionia, and by his widow, M. J. Spinney of Ionia.

The funeral was held Sunday from his late home in Ionia.

COMBINE OFFICES

Union Telephone Company Leases Rooms in Opera House Block.

It was stated yesterday that the Union Telephone company has leased all of the offices in the Opera House block, over the J. C. Penney and Earl C. Clapp stores, and that the two offices which the company is now maintaining here, will be combined in the near future, as the local office in the Pollasky block will be connected with the toll office.

This, however, will call for only a small portion of the expenditure that the Union Telephone company will make in Alma, as the entire outside plant will be rebuilt and made into what is known as a common battery plant. A new switchboard to be added to the equipment will be almost automatic, and will enable one operator to handle from 300 to 450 calls per hour, as is now being done in the Owasco offices.

It will do away with much of the stress under which the telephone girls are operating today, if indications Wednesday morning are to be taken. At that time six girls were on the local boards, all of them busy every minute of the half hour during a trip to the office. It must be said also that a close watch of the drops revealed the fact that the girls were answering the calls promptly at that time at least.

FLYERS AGAIN RUNNING

On Monday, February 16, the afternoon trains on the Pere Marquette between Grand Rapids and Bay City, known as the flyers, although they consistently fail to qualify in this respect, were put in service again, after having been off for about a month because of weather conditions. This again makes three trains each way a day between Grand Rapids and Saginaw, and is certain to meet with the approval of the traveling public. The trains restored to service are No. 33 and No. 34.

Deluxe candies are the best. 77-1f

SLUSSER LEASES NEW STRUCTURE

Secures Entire Maier Building. Just Completed, for Three Year Period.

WILL OPEN A SALESROOM

Will Use Building for Display of the Automobile Lines That He Handles.

Announcement was made the first of the week that F. E. Slusser, well known automobile dealer, had leased the new Maier block on East Superior street, the first floor of which is to be used as a salesroom. The building is located between the Ford and the Alma garages.

For the present time at least Mr. Slusser will use the first floor exclusively as a salesroom for the automobiles for which he is now the agent. These include such well known lines as the Hudson, the Essex and the Olds. Tuesday Mr. Slusser stated that within the past two weeks he had sold twenty-three automobiles, sixteen of which were Hudsons and seven of which were Essex cars.

Mr. Slusser has already moved into the building, and is now getting his displays ready for the public, and it is believed that when the arranging, etc., is entirely completed, that he will have one of the best display rooms in this or adjoining counties.

The Giles-Archer firm of vulcanizers, now located in the Gibbs block on Woodworth avenue, will also be located in the Maier block in the near future. The proprietors of the vulcanizing firm expect to move to the new location in about two weeks. New vulcanizing machinery is being secured for use in the new quarters, which they believe will be especially adapted for their business.

The rooms on the second floor of the building will be used by Mr. Slusser and his family, who will move in to them within the next few days.

LOSE TWO

Hillsdale and Kalamazoo Swamp Alma College Quintet.

Two overwhelming defeats were handed to the Alma College basketball aggregation on its road trip last week, Hillsdale College winning the Friday game at Hillsdale by a score of 38 to 8, and Saturday night Coach Young's Kalamazoo five swamped the Maroon and Cream under a count of 46 to 6.

The score of the Hillsdale game at Hillsdale was not much different than the score of the game here the previous week, Alma being held to three points less than in the game at Alma, and Hillsdale being able to score just one point less than in the Alma game.

The giants of the Blue and White aggregation had things their own way the entire route, in spite of the fact that Wood's cohorts fought them from start to finish. Better team play marked the work of Hillsdale on the Hillsdale court, than was shown by that team the previous week on the Alma floor, which would indicate that Alma also put up a better game at Hillsdale than was the case in the last home game.

The game at Kalamazoo Saturday night was a weird one, the Maroon and Cream failing to score a single field basket during the entire contest. The crippled five fought hard from start to finish, but could not stay the onslaught of Young's crack five, which has the promise of again being the M. I. A. A. championship aggregation. Alma's six points were obtained on fouls.

Every man on the team played his best and it is not to the discredit of the five that it lost, by such one-sided scores. The aggregation has had to contend with hardships, such as confront few teams during a season, but it did the very best that could be done in view of these conditions.

PARENT-TEACHERS' CLUB

The Parent-Teachers club of the Lincoln school met in the Kindergarten room Thursday February 5, at 3:00 p. m.

The room was decorated appropriately for a Japanese program.

Japanese Drill by three girls and song.

Recitation—Clifford Graham.

Japanese Folk Dance by a group of little girls.

Reading—Feast of Dolls—Verona Eichenberg.

Song by two boys.

Dance and song by three girls.

A talk—Rev. Geston.

A talk—Rev. Duffy.

Songs—Marie Thorp.

After a short business meeting the club was served to dainty refreshments.

The next meeting will be held March 4. Every parent should make a special effort to be present at the worthwhile meetings.

DIED TUESDAY

Mrs. Edith N. Morrison of this city, died Tuesday, February 17, following a short illness. She was 48 years of age. The funeral was held Thursday afternoon in the chapel in Riverside cemetery. The funeral was private.

REJECTS BIDS

City Commission Throws Out Bids For 1920 Sewer Work.

The bids for the sewer construction in this city during 1920, which was submitted to the city commission last week Tuesday were all rejected by the city commission at an adjourned meeting held Friday evening.

At the Friday evening meeting Mayor Murphy called upon Manager Reynolds for the details of the bids, and following their reading the commission held a lengthy discussion in regard to them, and then a motion was carried to reject them and return the checks which accompanied each bid.

It was felt that all of the three bids submitted were too high, and that the work could be done far cheaper than the price that the bids called for.

Just what the commission is now planning on doing is not known, but it is probable that new bids will be asked for immediately, or that the city may attempt to put in its own sewers this year.

SECOND SECRETARY OF STATE QUITS CABINET

Robert Lansing and Wilson Write "Notes" About Trouble—Lansing Resigns.

Surprise swept the country Saturday with the announcement that Robert Lansing, secretary of state, had resigned from President Wilson's cabinet. And it was not lessened to any extent by the publication of the letters exchanged between Wilson and Lansing, which are supposed to contain all of the information that the public needs to know about the affair.

The letters follow:

WILSON TO LANSING

"The White House, Washington, 7th February, 1920.

"My Dear Mr. Secretary:

"Is it true, as I have been told, that during my illness you have frequently called the heads of the executive departments of the government into conference? If it is, I feel it my duty to call your attention to considerations which I do not care to dwell upon until I learn from you, yourself, that this is the fact.

"Under our constitutional law and practice, as developed hitherto, no one but the president has the right to summon the heads of the executive departments into conference, and no one but the president and the congress has the right to ask their views or the views of any one of them on any public question.

"I take this matter up with you because, in the development of every constitutional system, custom and precedent are of the most serious consequence, and I think we will all agree in desiring not to lead in any wrong direction. I have, therefore, taken the liberty of writing to you to ask you this question, and I am sure you will be glad to answer.

"Cordially and sincerely yours,

WOODROW WILSON.

LANSING TO WILSON

The secretary replied:

"The Secretary of State,

"Washington, Feb. 9, 1920.

"My Dear Mr. President:

"It is true that frequently during your illness, I requested the heads of the executive departments of the government to meet for informal conference.

"Shortly after you were taken ill in October, certain members of the cabinet, of which I was one, felt that, in view of the fact that we were denied communication with you, it was wise for us to confer informally together on inter-departmental matters and matters as to which action could not be postponed until your medical advisers permitted you to pass upon them.

"Accordingly, I, as the ranking member, requested the members of the cabinet to assemble for such informal conference, and, in view of the mutual benefit derived, the practice was continued.

"I can assure you that I never for a moment entered my mind that I was acting unconstitutionally or contrary to your wishes, and there certainly was no intention on my part to assume powers and exercise functions which under the conditions are exclusively confined to the president.

"During these troublous times, when many difficult and vexatious questions have arisen, and when in the circumstances, I have been deprived of your guidance and direction, it has been my constant endeavor to carry out your policies as I understood them and to act in all matters as I believed you would wish me to act.

"If, however, you think that I have failed in my loyalty to you and if you no longer have confidence in me and prefer to have another conduct our foreign affairs, I am, of course, ready, Mr. President, to relieve you of any embarrassment by placing my resignation in your hands.

"I am, as always, faithfully yours,

"ROBERT LANSING"

To this letter the president replied:

"The White House, Washington, Feb. 11, 1920.

"My Dear Secretary—I am very much disappointed by your letter of Feb. 9 in reply to mine asking about (Continued on page four)

STATE TO HANDLE GAS PROPOSITION

Franchise Revocation by City Commission Now Seems a Certainty

ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED

Mayor Calls for Public Hearings That Opinion of Taxpayers May Be Had.

Unless some strenuous objections are made by the people of Alma at two public hearings to be held at the commission meetings during the next two weeks, it is practically a certainty that the city commission will revoke the franchise of the Gratiot County Gas Company, and then join with the officials of the concern in making an appeal to the Michigan Public Utilities Commission to establish a fair gas rate for the corporation.

This decision on the part of the majority of the commission, which may be changed by the events of the next two or three weeks, has been reached after weeks of argument on the question, and has been made that the gas proposition may be disposed of one way or the other in the very near future.

The "confession" of the company, as Commissioner Cresser termed it, which was received from the company last week and placed on file, which admitted that the company had not kept, performed and executed all of the terms of its franchise granted in January of 1913, and granted the waiving of the ninety day clause in the franchise in regard to its revocation, was spread on the records on motion of Commissioner Glass, and was followed by a resolution offered by Commissioner Chick that whereas the Gratiot County Gas Co. had filed its admission of default under the present franchise, an ordinance be adopted revoking the franchise.

Commissioner Chick then introduced the proposed ordinance to revoke the franchise, which was placed on file, and will have its first reading before the commission next Tuesday evening.

There was a long discussion of the matter before the resolution was put to a vote and the proposed ordinance filed, and while seemingly every member of the commission was in favor of the action, Commissioner Cresser objecting to supporting it until the city attorney was present to go over the legality of the matter. It was pointed out that the city attorney, James G. Kress, had drawn up the resolution and ordinance, but the commissioner was obdurate, continuing his stand that the matter should rest until Kress could be present, and advise in the matter. His was the only vote against the resolution or the introduction of the ordinance.

Mayor Charles R. Murphy stated that he would issue a call for a public hearing on the matter at the next two meetings of the city commission that a full expression of the citizens of Alma in regard to the matter might be obtained, before the final action on the proposed ordinance to revoke the franchise was taken.

If the franchise is revoked, it is extremely probable that a joint resolution will be passed by the city commission and the officials of the Gratiot County Gas Company, asking the Michigan Public Utilities Commission to step in and fix a rate for the company.

The proposition which is now up before the city commission started some few weeks ago, when R. B. Wagner of the Gratiot County Gas Company, appeared before the city commission and pointed out that the company was not only desirous of making some improvements, but that the improvements were badly needed to allow the company to take care of the demands which were being made upon it for service. He stated that these improvements would cost around \$50,000, and that the company could not borrow the money because of the temporary rate which it now has, under which interest on the borrowed fund could not be guaranteed. He then asked that the rate be made permanent, so that the company could make extensions needed to better supply the people.

Following an investigation it was brought out that perhaps the best way to handle the matter would be to revoke the franchise and take the matter of the utilities commission for decision.

The action of Tuesday by the city commission is the first step in this direction.

It is now expected that Manager Wagner of the Gratiot County Gas company will now take up the matter with Ithaca, St. Louis and Breckenridge, the three other communities that the gas company is now serving, and ask that the councils in those places take the same action that is being taken by the city commission in Alma.

SPECIAL SERVICE

Dr. Phelps of Lansing will be in Alma Sunday and will give an address to the high school students that evening on the subject "Highlights in High School Days." There will be special music.

WANTS HOSPITAL

City Commissioner J. C. Chick Feels That City Needs One.

John C. Chick, city commissioner, is one of the strongest boosters in Alma right now for a city hospital, which is one thing that he feels the city is greatly in need of, and which he says is a proposition that he would like to see the voters express themselves upon.

He feels that there is demand enough for such an institution to make it pay for itself, and not become a losing venture as some people may feel.

It is understood that Brainerd's hospital will be available at a fair price should the city desire to go into the venture, and Mr. Chick is highly desirous of having the voters of Alma pass upon the merits of a bond issue for such a purpose.

Other communities no larger than Alma have been making municipal hospitals make both ends meet, and he feels that a board of hospital managers in charge of such an institution here, would do the same thing for Alma. It is very probable that Commissioner Chick will bring up this matter again at the meeting of the city commission next Tuesday evening.

NATIONAL ARMY ESSAY CONTEST COMES FRIDAY

Pupils of Alma Schools Will Write of Advantages Offered by Land Forces.

Friday, February 20, is the day of the National Army Essay contest and school children all over this land will be engaged in writing about the army, and its good features, which should attract enlistments. Alma school children will take part in the contest.

The contests her promises to have a large number of school children entered, as Corporal L. A. Kahn, Serg. M. K. Justice, Mayor Murphy, the school authorities and others have been using every means at their command to interest the school and indirectly to interest others in the army.

A long list of prizes are being offered by the government. As the government is offering only three prizes it is not very probable that any of them will be won by local school children, although they will have the same great opportunity that is accorded all of those in the country. They will have, a splendid chance to win prizes, however, as the Alma merchants have come to the front and are offering some splendid inducements to Alma school students. Prizes for essays in the contest Friday are being offered as follows:

D. W. Robinson, Eversharp silver pencil.

Glass & Hannah, pair of roller skates.

Alma State Savings Bank, bank account of \$1.00.

W. B. Holdridge, \$1.00 in cash.

Wright Furniture Store, Golden oak rocker.

J. M. Burkheiser, \$2.00 in trade.

A. B. Scattergood, \$2.00 in trade.

L. Luxe Candy Co., \$2.00 in trade.

Ellison's Grocery, \$2.00 in cash.

J. E. Converse, Beautiful fountain pen.

Economy Shoe Store, \$2.00 in trade.

J. A. Gerhardt, \$2.00 in trade.

Piccolo Bros., \$2.00 box of candy.

L. Rockstein, \$2.00 in trade.

Eichenberg & Co., \$3.00 in cash.

Alma News Co., Harry Lauder book, value \$2.50.

National Clothing Co., \$2.00 in trade.

Model Bakery, Special made cake, value \$2.00.

Winslow Bros., \$2.50 fountain pen.

Fortino Bros., \$2.00 box of candy.

C. G. Falor & Son, \$2.00 in trade.

European Cafe, Box of Candy.

W. S. Proud, \$2.50 night dress.

Earl C. Clapp, to buy a \$3.75 military air rifle.

Crandell & Scott Furniture store, \$5.00 in cash.

Cushing & Benedict, \$5.00 pair of shoes to boy or girl.

G. J. Maier & Co., \$10.00 credit to boy winning contest.

W. A. Brunner, \$2.00 in trade.

S. L. Bennett, \$5.00 in cash.

L. N. Baker, \$2.00 in cash.

C. H. Smith, \$2.00 in trade.

Pavell's Grocery, \$2.00 in trade.

C. R. Murphy, not announced.

MAY TRAIN HERE

There is a strong probability that the Saginaw Aces, champions of the Michigan-Ontario league in 1919, will do their spring training in Alma, because of some of the advantages that this city offers.

If the Aces under the management of "Red" McKee, former Tiger, come here for their spring training the champs will use Republic field for their workouts, it was stated a few days ago by Manager Olmstead of the Republics. It is very probable that in such a case a number of spring training games would be staged between the Aces and the Republics and the Aces and the Alma College nine.

"Fatty" Arbuckle in "The Garage"—Idlehour Monday and Tuesday—adv.

Buy the best. Buy DeLuxe—77-1f

OPERATIONS WERE STARTED TUESDAY

Northern Wheel Co. Machinery Is Turning Out the First Products.

PROSPECTS ARE EXCELLENT

Many Inquiries Are Coming to the Officials Regarding the Business.

Alma's new million dollar industry, The Northern Wheel Company, started active operations Tuesday morning, and as it begins operations has better prospects for a fine success than perhaps any industry has ever had at a like period of its history in this city.

Thirty men were on the payroll of the company as workers on the first day that the machinery was in motion, starting to turn out the first wooden automobile and truck wheels to be made in Alma. It is certain that the next few weeks will see the force increased rapidly until in the neighborhood of one hundred men are employed at the plant.

Six dry kilns are already filled with spokes, while three others have been filled with bent felloes, and other material is being received rapidly, indicating that the factory will not receive any immediate setbacks from this source.

In an interview yesterday Orville Allen, secretary of the Northern Wheel Company, stated that the company expected to have finished wheels out yet this month.

When asked what in his opinion were the prospects for the enterprise he stated that a large number of inquiries had been constantly coming to the concern